

Coastal Resilience Community of Practice Meeting

Held Monday, March 21, 2022 – 1 - 3pm via Webex

Purpose of the COP: Bring together diverse coastal stakeholders to focus on how ecosystem resilience can build local community resilience. We don't necessarily have to have a "thing" to work on but will take on projects as appropriate and mutually agreed on. Website: <https://deq.nc.gov/coastal-resilience-cop>

Agenda

1:00pm Welcome & Introductions. Attendees:

- Jacob Boyd, NCDMF
- Sam Burdick, Town of Beaufort, Town Planner
- Mike Christenbury / Wilmington
- Kacy Cook, WRC Habitat Conservation Division, Conservation Biologist
- Cayla Cothron, NC Sea Grant, Climate Resilience Specialist
- Lora Eddy, NC Nature Conservancy Albemarle-Pamlico Sounds Office, Community Resilience Specialist
- Stacey Feken, Albemarle Pamlico National Estuary Partnership, Policy & Engagement Manager
- Eryn Futral, NC Floodplain Management Program, Eastern Branch Planner for NFIP
- Whitney Jenkins, Coastal Reserve & DCM
- Tancred Miller, DCM
- Kara Nunnally NCCF
- Charlan Owens, DCM District Planner
- Grace Roskar, NC Coastal Reserve & DCM, Natural Resources Resilience Specialist
- Sarah Spiegler, NC Sea Grant, Coastal Resilience Specialist
- Mackenzie Todd, DCM Coastal Resilience Specialist
- Jeff West, Cape Lookout National Seashore
- Holly White, Town of Nags Head

Guests:

- Forest Shepherd / NCDEQ Basin Planning Branch
- Elizabeth Frankenburg, Director, UNC Carolina Population Center

1:15pm Climate Central's Coastal Tools Overview – Dan Rizza

(Dan not able to make it today will try to get him again next time)

1:40pm NC Sea Grant Climate Resilience Advisory Group Discussion – Cayla Cothron

- Framework for NCSG climate resilience extension focus /overview / Iterative process, talk over the next few meetings *See handout with notes/slides for more information and details*
- how coordinate into larger resilience focus at SG
- Develop framework for what climate resilience look like
- Hope to use group to guide and focus efforts, /opportunities for SG to play a role in meeting needs, develop or expand extension programming

- Triple bottom line approach / Equity justice diversity inclusion
 - Bridget gap between risk and solutions
 - Advance a research agenda and educational opportunities tailored to needs
 - Discussion / feedback
- Issues:*
- Understanding risk, vulnerability and resilience strategies to address short- and long-term climate impacts and non-climate stressors / things that can exacerbate climate change /
 - Proactive vs. reactive recovery and resilience
 - Sustaining long term momentum toward resilience
 - Integration / pull resilience into all facets of local planning and investment / development decisions, etc.
 - Tancred suggested adding implementation challenges / sees in needs but capture here as well
 - Holly: metrics: how do we measure success and communicate that to local government authorities
 - Grant application challenges, procurement, etc.
 - Limited capacity and resources at the local level
 - Lora: understanding risk / local community, are they using SLR / right rate, precipitation, what working towards and something actually a resilient project / goes to first need of improving data and research / NC climate assessment could articulate what that is for these regions, more downscaled, consumable language, could be nested in needs / Cayla will also put in opportunities

Needs

- Improve data and research availability accessibility and application at the community scale
- Expand capacity to understand, advance, and strengthen resilience:
- Build resilience through local planning and implementation
- Emerging: understand impacts and benefits of climate mitigation actions and how coastal communities can and should prepare
- Stacey suggest adding: how to balance stakeholder perception / understanding
- Track outcomes for actions/recommendations in the NC Risk and Resilience Plan, Natural and Working lands action plan
- Holly suggest: sharing with local communities that were part of the original listening sessions / workshops held for EO80, show them what's been accomplished, resilience summit, implementation, resilient coastal communities programs, some are just catching up, while others were part of the process, this a result of their direct feedback. Help with community buy-in, reduce confusion as to where these programs are coming from / turnover / go over background / many asking if this is a hazard mitigation plan? Not as in depth, vulnerability, risk factors, etc. adds onto
- Jacob: Co-benefits: keep connectivity b/w community & ecosystem resilience
- Holly: Nature based solutions/ demonstrate / how to go back and re-tool stormwater management plans: retool to funding available today
- Cayla/her background Built environment focused / natural systems folks to help with integration
- Next time: Framework development see what pre-populated, send out before or with agenda?

- Matrix: Need/Opportunities/priority geographies, target audiences/potential partners
- Tancred: desktop application jump start for local governments / input/upload hazard management data in upfront / stream in through a single interface / known data/ not pay a contractor to get together/have data not accessible at local level without intermediary
- Zoning: one stop shop

Lora: brainstorm/framework/white board / interactive / prompting questions / help jump discussions, people think in different ways some need examples / seed or salt to get it going / parameters for thinking constrain what would be useful for this exercise/2-pagers / way to collect project ideas / collect ideas

Kacy: partners / Green Growth Toolbox, remind them it's there and complimentary to the resilience programs if they need assistance

Resilience clearinghouse group / etc. add to ideas in document

Synthesize with other groups / processes / Stacey mentioned the interagency Watershed Restoration Improvement Team (WRIT) led by NCDEQ as an example

2:10pm Basin Planning, Resilience Integration Discussion - Forest Shepherd, Basin Planner for [Chowan](#), [Pasquotank](#), and [Roanoke River basins](#)

Forest introduced himself, he's a NC native / been with basin planning last 2 years / staff turnover / now moving to a different position / promotion / in a transition period / also working on special projects in Cape Fear River Basin

Overview of the NCDEQ / Division of Water Resources / Water Planning Section: has 6 branches, basin planning is one of those. The section deals with a variety of topics including:

- Work in each of the 17 river basins
- Administer state and federal grants / Non Point Source Section (319, 205j)
- Impaired waters / quantity issues / TMDLs
- Water supply planning: adequacy of water supply availability for drought, Inter basin transfer certifications
- Weed control programs
- Groundwater supply and quality
- Water quality modeling and assessment
- Water classifications and standards, rules
- Basin planning clearinghouse for other agencies

What is a basin plan? Provides a single location to present water quality data since 1993 and water quantity since 2013, and related issues; Required every 10 years

Basinwide water resources management plans / basin characteristics, monitoring data, WQ assessment, permitted and registered activities / water use and availability, watershed chapters HUC 8 level specific information

Basin Planning goals: 1) scientific based WQ and quantity analysis for planning purposes, recommendations to protect water resources, ongoing support for watershed restoration and protection efforts: see slide

Work collaboratively with other sections/branches/programs / agencies: water sciences, planning, permitting, other DEQ divisions including DMF, DCM, DAQ, DMS, APNEP, etc. and other agencies, NC Natural Heritage Program, NC Department of Agriculture, etc.

Currently working on Cape Fear: {MINIMAL BUFFER REQUIREMENTS}

- 1) issues: nutrient over-enrichment/ algal blooms, taste and odor problems, NPDES permits minimal nutrient limits, increasing BOD demand
- 2) How engage?
 - a. Early engagement via email and phone calls to stakeholders, state and local agencies including local govt, county departments, watershed groups, local leaders, non-profits, public,
 - b. Internal and external review process
 - c. Public comment period

Basin plans final notes: Not a rule: no permitting authority

Documents current conditions and how changed over time

Brief overview of basin plan branch

Plans:

2018 Watauga

2021 Chowan / Pasquotank / White Oak

Yadkin / public comment period just ended

Cape Fear

Charlan asked how they typically engage local government staff particularly local planners in creation of basinwide plan and development of its recommended planning strategies? Forest noted it has been challenging due to turnover with basin planners, for his basins he was working on updating / developing lists, some basins have more established lists of stakeholders, could use help from this group with developing/updating contact lists, educating basin planners on who to coordinate with at the local level, help them create a network

Kirsten noted the interagency WRIT group mentioned above is trying to engage communities / municipalities / EJ communities/communities within communities/ having conversations, developing relationships

Lora Eddy: agrees local government representation needs to be addressed in basin plans & implementation, help local government see overlap with other issues, co-benefits of looking at carbon sequestration / resilience through a water quality & habitat restoration lens, on the ground, there are small actions that can benefit both arenas. Have seen drop off/turnover in local government staff she works with.

Holly: great / invite local govt staff let them know what's going on / may not be aware / could extend an invite to those part of Resilient Coastal Communities Program (RCCP), use them as a sounding board / River basin plans / could help through the CAMA land use plan approval process / as plans are approved: identify who are local government planners in each basin/ identify contacts for counties, municipalities: mayor/manager/planner

in each jurisdiction / can DCM help? Local approach email directly do this. As CAMA plans are being approved, could also help identify if there are common themes coming out of approved plans that could result in need for watershed level actions plans/understand regional themes with the plans

Tancred: yes DCM can help but defer to Charlan/Mike for comment; what in terms of regional/kill devil hills in nags head address wq / things that might be addressed in CAMA plans / help with basin wide plans / Charlan noted that plans are statewide, not just coastal management, many local governments not up to speed what's in those plans/what's happening not being translated. Perhaps contacts aren't trickling down to planning staff as basin plans / turnover / not doing planning at watershed level, look at plans as input for watershed perspective / looked

Mike Christenbury: DCM update land use plan regulations early 2000s / many meetings held with basin planners at the time / ways to integrate basin wide planning more closely with CAMA land use requirements/strong resolution how to link the two programs together based on desire at the time / varies where you are along the coast, DCM offices may be in one river basin, some in multiple basins/ Wilmington cape fear, new river/lumber river / water sewer / multiple counties / haven't found best way to link the two together /

Public process / participate in river basin meetings happening across the state / unified action / public notice / fact sheets / news get word out / internally good communities / hard to get out to general public /

Holly: could be helpful to have template list of stakeholders that could be shared with agency / could this group help with a google doc or excel spreadsheet, how can they cast the widest net, post on the NC Plan list serv / catch planners in basin affected/outreach resource / go to for getting the word out in a broader sense / how connect to list of stakeholders they can connect with / who needs to be at the table /

Whitney / could cross reference with Cayla's google sheet / help create a comprehensive list, also think of other folks, UNC School of Government, who else needs to be listed. Cayla noted she could help through her project, create a template to add to

Forest can share list of people to contact, welcomes helping each other out.

Stacey thanked Forest for being here and having this conversation, see how we can bridge gaps between basin planning/water resources/resilience, keep in mind how we can all help each other out.

2:25pm Round robin – members share what they are working on related to resilience

Mackenzie: Phase 1&2 of RCPP about to wrap up / working group help improve for next round/Phase 3 RFP coming out in the next week or two/ design and engineering. Working on a pre-proposal for NWFC coastal resilience fund / help move into implementation

Tancred: 2 positions posted add in chat / hope Mackenzie applies / open for 3 weeks / 1 full-time / specialist time limited minimum 2 years

Coastal Resiliency Coordinator:

<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/northcarolina/jobs/3436592/coastal-resiliency-coordinator>

Coastal Resiliency Specialist

<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/northcarolina/jobs/3474964/coastal-resiliency-specialist>

Stacey: Restore America's Estuaries National Estuary Program Coastal Watersheds Grant RFP open, projects take place within NEP watersheds, need letter from APNEP, LOI due May 27 / happy to partner talk to me or Heather Jennings; <https://apnep.nc.gov/blog/2022/05/27/nep-coastal-watersheds-grant-program>

Sam: lot going on, interesting working from the other side / RCPP / stormwater / wastewater / watershed restoration plans/ pull from those / non-structural projects / estuarine shoreline management plan / prioritize all of those / share status of portfolio as it is now, to evaluate and prioritize projects / social equity analysis, low-med-high / available funding/co-benefits, environmental justice analysis, final stages take advantage of wealth of knowledge get projects to a point to come to fruition/pursue funding to further design and implement project/ info about CRS program/ schedule follow up with Lora, make sure look at closely, include comprehensive joint CAMA land use plan / not been done before / board of commissioners / overlap/makes sense to combine / present to planning board next month/goes before CRC, several months, excited to see adopted / complete overhaul of ordinance, take info from resilience strategy as well to inform update/take advantage of upcoming grant sources / projects in portfolio might push forward first / want cop feedback/presentation/share material ahead of time, discussion / June / Whitney can organize sooner

Mike: towns working on different projects on a number of resilience fronts/Carolina Beach several studies/nuisance flooding/king tide events/etc./ CRS ratings / etc /

Lora: proposal to NFWF scoping 2 hydrologic restoration projects Holly Shelter / and one other/rewet peat soils/mitigation/high carbon soil/ off gas/restore /ditched and drained areas access roads to log

Kara: NCCF doing lots of wonderful things /she leads Coastal Resilience Leadership Institute, would like to get feedback from COP, partner with Duke University Marine Lab target local government officials. Focus on providing content knowledge, professional development components, better more effective workflow for local govt sector, networking / sit down, have a beer, develop genuine relationships, looks forward to connection with group at a future meeting

Kacy: reminder Partners for green growth funding available for local governments, it's ongoing can field applications year round / interested in doing conservation planning to reduce impacts to wildlife habitat goes hand in hand with resilience/ ties to natural solutions and nature based infrastructure. Have been hosting webinars, recorded and available to watch anytime, half up now, rest should be up within next few weeks . greening development design and site location; America the Beautiful / federal infrastructure bill / wildlife habitat / road crossing/ agency looking at as a whole; Recovering America's Wildlife act sitting in committee, could triple budget from 9M to 24M per year / can go into habitat conservation.

Partners for Green Growth funding for local governments:

<https://www.ncwildlife.org/Conserving/Programs/Green-Growth-Toolbox/Technical-Assistance>

Green Growth Toolbox webinar series available to watch anytime.

<https://www.ncwildlife.org/Conserving/Programs/Green-Growth-Toolbox/Training-Workshops>

Jacob: lot of stuff going on: Coastal Habitat Protection Plan (CHPP) implementation / RCPP workgroup/align recommendations of CHPP with/meeting with NCORR as well/ NWL work on action / GHG SAV high salinity first complete by summer; Statewide resilience clearinghouse received USCA funding / online one stop shop for all

things resilience / NWL / resilience plans; DMF headquarters in Morehead City, living shorelines apply for funding stormwater retrofit/ get campus up to par

Holly: 1) wrap up decentralized wastewater management plan, on agenda to be adopted at June meeting--18 month planning effort, how plan strategically can manage septic systems, original plan 2005 septic health initiative program / surface water / ocean / planning/groundwater data / big lift; Estuarine shoreline management plan/halfway December of this year / comprehensive look at town's estuarine shoreline, what types of nature based solution part of shoreline/bathymetric data/wind analysis/ give back to public do on their own property, prioritize for town/ project list 10-12 finish by end of year; Content part of energy / NC Chapter Architects, work with NCSU design students/graphic represent content, select to go into document; Duke MEM students help develop EV action plan for town / draft action plan this week/wrap up by June meeting; energy transition partnership grant through CSI / take look at energy grid and how make more resilient/?emerial lab and CSI / RCPP release community survey today/ goal done with by June or mid-May, work with CSI to get a designation as sole smart: solar / existing outreach to community / lots of positive good things

Grace: habitat resilience plan for Rachel Carson reserve in Beaufort/ prioritize projects to get to shovel ready status/ stay tuned / doing actual writing of plans, do a presentation soon

Whitney: Next steps: work with Sam to schedule special Beaufort meeting, schedule June meeting/ get Dan Rizzo to present in June / Cayla advisory committee/ Grace suggest dynamics of stream events places people at UNC, Kara on list too.

2:55pm Next meeting:

- Next meeting in June. Whitney will send a meeting poll. **Scheduled June 15**
- Next meeting topics –
 - Coastal Leadership Institute – Kara Nunnally, NC Coastal Federation
 - [DEEPP project](#) at UNC (Dynamics of Extreme Events, People, and Places) (Grace)
- Other agenda item ideas?

3:00pm Adjourn